

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A tomato composition obtained from tomato juice or tomato passatas having the following composition in percentage by weight:

- dry residue 5.5 - 20%,
- water 94.5-80%,

100% being the sum of the two components,

wherein the amount of water-insoluble solids and water-soluble solids in the dry residue ~~range~~ ranges in percentage by weight as follows:

- water-insoluble solids from 18% to 30%,
- water-soluble solids from 82% to 70%.

25. (Previously Presented) A tomato composition according to claim 24, wherein the amount of water-insoluble solids and water-soluble solids in the dry residue ranges in percentage by weight as follows:

- water-insoluble solids from 20% to 30%,
- water-soluble solids from 80% to 70%.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising animal and/or vegetable fats and the tomato composition according to claim 24 or 25.

28. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 27, wherein said animal and/or vegetable fats are solid at room temperature.

29. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 27, wherein said animal and/or vegetable fats are liquid at room temperature.

30. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 28, wherein said animal and/or vegetable fats comprise butter or margarine.

31. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 29, wherein said animal and/or vegetable fats comprise olive oil.

32. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 27, wherein said animal and/or vegetable fats comprise soft, hard or grated cheese.

33-34. (Canceled)

35. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato composition according to claim 27 ~~24 or 25~~, wherein the ~~amount of fats and/or oil in the composition~~ contains said fats, based upon the weight of the tomato composition, ~~ranges~~ in an amount ranging from 10% to 25% by weight, ~~the~~

~~amount of soft cheese ranges from 50% to 300% by weight and the amount of hard and/or grated cheese ranges from 10% to 25% by weight.~~

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A method of saucing food which comprises mixing the tomato composition of claim 24 with said food.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said food is pasta, meat, fish or vegetables.

39. (Previously Presented) A ready-to-use sauce for food comprising the tomato composition of claim 24.

40. (Previously Presented) A ready-to-use sauce for food comprising the composition of claim 27.

41. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an essence aroma and/or preservative for food and the composition of claim 24.

42. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an essence aroma and/or preservative for food and the composition of claim 27.

43. (Previously Presented) Food comprising the tomato composition of claim 24.

44. (Previously Presented) Food comprising the composition of claim 27.

45. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product ~~composition~~ prepared ~~from tomato juice~~ ~~previously treated to inactivate enzymes or tomato passatas~~ by a process comprising ~~separation of~~ separating by filtration tomato serum from water insoluble solids present in either tomato juice or in tomato passatas using a separation solid-liquid apparatus wherein ~~the suspension~~ said tomato juice or tomato passatas ~~to be filtered~~ is maintained under stirring with a stirrer at an angular speed from 1 rpm to 20 rpm during filtration, the stirrer being of a shape to convey the ~~suspension~~ tomato juice or tomato passatas toward the central axis of the apparatus, and recovering said tomato serum and/or said water insoluble solids as said tomato product.

46. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product ~~composition~~ prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein the apparatus for separating the liquid from said tomato juice or tomato passatas ~~a tomato suspension~~ is a sieve maintained under an oscillating motion, the oscillations being from 1 to 20 oscillations/min.

47. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product ~~composition~~ prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein sterile conditions are used or the final tomato product undergoes a sterilization process.

48. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein the process is conducted at temperatures in the range of 5°C-25°C, at atmospheric pressure, or at pressures slightly higher than atmospheric pressure, from 760 mm Hg (0.101 MPa) up to 900 mm Hg (0.120 MPa) or by applying pressures slightly lower than atmospheric pressure, down to 450 mm Hg (0.06 MPa).

49. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein a separation solid-liquid apparatus constituted of a vessel having walls with slots or with holes is employed, wherein the width of the slots or the diameter of the holes is not greater than 0.1 mm, the slot length ranging from 30 cm to 2 meters, said vessel having a cylindrical section, the separator being equipped with a mechanical stirrer, wherein the distance between the separator walls and the stirrer blades is from 0.5 to 2 cm.

50. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim ~~[[45]]~~ 46, wherein a concave- or flat-shaped sieve, having hole diameters or slot widths not greater than 0.1 mm is operated at atmospheric pressure.

51. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein the equipment employed comprises a cylinder constituted by food grade stainless steel wherein the walls have openings or slots formed by woven wire cloth, or by screens, or said walls have holes, being the width of the openings of the slots, or hole diameters not greater than 0.1 mm, said cylinder having an inner stirrer in the form of an archimedean screw

revolving free in the fixed cylinder, or the cylinder is a rotating tube wound helically about a cylindrical axis.

52. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein the rotation of the ~~moving part~~ stirrer is at an angular speed of 2-10 rpm.

53. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 51, wherein the cylinder is in a horizontal position, and has a diameter ranging from 30 cm to 1 meter or a length from 2 meters to 20 meters for apparatus working in a discontinuous way or about 20 meters for apparatus which works in a continuous way.

54. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein the separation solid-liquid apparatus is provided with slots having a width or holes having a diameter not higher than 0.5 mm ~~when treating a tomato suspensions derived from partially ripened tomatoes.~~

55. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein the tomato product composition has a content of water-insoluble solids ~~in the dry residue~~ from 18% to 30% based on dry residue.

56. **(Currently Amended)** A tomato product composition prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein a tomato compositions composition having a content of water-

insoluble solids ~~in the dry residue~~ in the range from 20% to 30% based on dry residue is added to either lyophilized or cryoconcentrated serum, or a serum concentrated by an osmosis membrane or by evaporation under vacuum.

57. (Withdrawn) A process for the separation of tomato juice serum from a tomato suspension by using a separation solid-liquid apparatus wherein the suspension to be filtered is maintained under stirring at an angular speed from 1 rpm to 20 rpm, the stirrer being of a shape to convey the suspension toward the central axis of the apparatus, or wherein there is no stirrer and the apparatus rotates.

58. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein the apparatus for separating the liquid from a tomato suspension is a sieve maintained under an oscillating motion, the oscillations being from 1 to 20 oscillations/min.

59. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein sterile conditions are used or the final tomato product undergoes a sterilization process.

60. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein the process is conducted at temperatures in the range of 5°C-25°C, at atmospheric pressure, or at pressures slightly higher than atmospheric pressure, from 760 mm Hg (0.101 MPa) up to 900 mm Hg (0.120 MPa) or by applying pressures slightly lower than atmospheric pressure, down to 450 mm Hg (0.06 MPa).

61. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein a separation solid-liquid apparatus constituted of a vessel having walls with slots or with holes is employed, wherein the width of the slots or the diameter of the holes is not greater than 0.1 mm, the slot length ranging from 30 cm to 2 meters, said vessel having a cylindrical section, the separator being equipped

with a mechanical stirrer, wherein the distance between the separator walls and the stirrer blades is from 0.5 to 2 cm.

62. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein a concave- or flat-shaped sieve, having hole diameters or slot widths not greater than 0.1 mm is operated at atmospheric pressure.

63. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein the equipment employed comprises a cylinder constituted by food grade stainless steel wherein the walls have openings or slots formed by woven wire cloth, or by screens, or said walls have holes, being the width of the openings of the slots, or hole diameters not greater than 0.1 mm, said cylinder having an inner stirrer in the form of an archimedean screw revolving free in the fixed cylinder, or the cylinder is a rotating tube wound helically about a cylindrical axis.

64. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein the rotation of the moving part is at an angular speed of 2-10 rpm.

65. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 63, wherein the cylinder is in a horizontal position, and has a diameter ranging from 30 cm to 1 meter or a length from 2 meters to 20 meters for apparatus working in a discontinuous way or about 20 meters for apparatus which works in a continuous way.

66. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein the separation solid-liquid apparatus is provided with slots having a width or holes having a diameter not higher than 0.5 mm when treating tomato suspensions derived from partially ripened tomatoes.

67. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein the tomato composition has a content of water-insoluble solids in the dry residue from 18% to 30%.

68. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 57, wherein to tomato compositions having a content of water-insoluble solids in the dry residue in the range from 20% to 30% is added lyophilized or cryoconcentrated serum, or serum concentrated by an osmosis membrane or by evaporation under vacuum.

69. (New) A tomato composition according to claim 24 or 25 wherein said composition is obtained from tomato juice.

70. (New) A tomato composition according to claim 24 or 25 wherein said composition is obtained from tomato passatas.

71. (New) A tomato product prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein said water insoluble solids are present in tomato juice.

72. (New) A tomato product prepared according to the process of claim 45, wherein said water insoluble solids are present in tomato passatas.

73. (New) A composition according to claim 32, wherein said cheese is hard cheese and/or grated cheese present in an amount of from 10% to 25% by weight, based on the weight of the tomato composition.

74. (New) A composition according to claim 32, wherein said cheese is soft cheese present in an amount of from 50% to 300% by weight, based on the weight of the tomato composition.